

“(B) amounts received as donations from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation or other private entities or persons for deposit to the Fund.”

Subsec. (g)(3), (4). Pub. L. 103-375, §6(6)(B), struck out pars. (3) and (4) which read as follows:

“(3) The Secretary may accept and use donations from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other private entities or persons for purposes of assisting States under this section.

“(4) Of the total amount provided from the Fund to assist a State in carrying out a wildlife conservation and appreciation project under subsection (a) of this section, at least 50 percent shall have been donated to the Fund by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.”

Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 103-375, §6(7), substituted “1998” for “1995” and struck out before period at end “to match the amount of contributions made to the Fund by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation”.

CHAPTER 58—ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION AND RESERVE PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER I—DEFINITIONS

Sec.
3801. Definitions.

SUBCHAPTER II—HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND CONSERVATION

3811. Program ineligibility.
 (a) In general.
 (b) Highly erodible land.
3812. Exemptions.
 (a) Persons eligible for program benefits in connection with production or reduced production of crops on certain lands; eligibility based upon compliance with conservation plan by January 1, 1995; minimization of documentation.
 (b) Persons eligible for program benefits in connection with production of certain planted crops or production of crops on highly erodible land.
 (c) Ineligibility for loans and payments under section 3811.
 (d) Program ineligibility inapplicable to pre-December 23, 1985, section 3811 loans.
 (e) Limitations on ineligibility for tenants.
 (f) Graduated sanctions.
 (g) Preparation or revision of conservation plan.
 (h) Noncommercial production of agricultural commodities.
- 3812a. Development and implementation of conservation plans and conservation systems.
 (a) Technical requirements.
 (b) Measurement of erosion reduction.
 (c) Residue measurement.
 (d) Certification of compliance.
 (e) Technical assistance.
 (f) Encouragement of on-farm research.
3813. Soil surveys.
3814. Notice and investigation of possible compliance deficiencies.
 (a) In general.
 (b) Corrective action.
 (c) Review.

SUBCHAPTER III—WETLAND CONSERVATION

3821. Program ineligibility.
 (a) Production on converted wetland.
 (b) Ineligibility for certain loans and payments.
 (c) Wetland conversion.
 (d) Prior loans.

Sec.

3822. Delineation of wetlands; exemptions.
 (a) Delineation by Secretary.
 (b) Exemptions.
 (c) On-site inspection requirement.
 (d) Identification of minimal effect exemptions.
 (e) Nonwetlands.
 (f) Minimal effect; mitigation.
 (g) Mitigation appeals.
 (h) Good faith exemption.
 (i) Restoration.
 (j) Determinations; restoration and mitigation plans; monitoring activities.
 (k) Mitigation banking program.
3823. Affiliated persons.
3824. Fairness of compliance.

SUBCHAPTER IV—AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

PART I—COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

SUBPART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

3830. Comprehensive conservation enhancement program.
 (a) Establishment.
 (b) Administration.
- 3830a. Repealed.

SUBPART B—CONSERVATION RESERVE

3831. Conservation reserve.
 (a) In general.
 (b) Eligible land.
 (c) Planting status of certain land.
 (d) Maximum enrollment.
 (e) Duration of contract.
 (f) Conservation priority areas.
 (g) Multi-year grasses and legumes.
 (h) Pilot program for enrollment of wetland and buffer acreage in conservation reserve.
 (i) Eligibility for consideration.
 (j) Balance of natural resource purposes.
 (k) Emergency forestry conservation reserve program.
3832. Duties of owners and operators.
 (a) In general.
 (b) Conservation plans.
 (c) Foreclosure.
3833. Duties of the Secretary.
3834. Payments.
 (a) Timing.
 (b) Federal percentage of cost sharing payments.
 (c) Annual rental payments.
 (d) Cash or in-kind payments.
 (e) Payments on death, disability, or succession.
 (f) Payment limitation for rental payments.
 (g) Other State or local assistance.
3835. Contracts.
 (a) Ownership or operation requirements.
 (b) Sales or transfers.
 (c) Modifications.
 (d) Termination.
 (e) Early termination by owner or operator.
- 3835a. Conversion of land subject to contract to other conserving uses.
 (a) Conversion to trees.
 (b) Conversion to wetland.
 (c) Limitation.
 (d) Condition of contract.

SUBPART C—WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

3837. Wetlands reserve program.

- Sec. (a) Establishment.
(b) Enrollment conditions.
(c) Eligibility.
(d) Other eligible land.
(e) Ineligible land.
(f) Termination of existing contract.
- 3837a. Easements and agreements.
(a) In general.
(b) Terms of easement.
(c) Restoration plans.
(d) Compatible uses.
(e) Type and length of easement.
(f) Compensation.
(g) Violation.
- 3837b. Duties of owners.
- 3837c. Duties of Secretary.
(a) In general.
(b) Cost-share and technical assistance.
(c) Acceptability of offers.
(d) Easement priority.
- 3837d. Payments.
(a) Time of payment.
(b) Payments to others.
(c) Payment limitation.
(d) Exemption from automatic sequester.
- 3837e. Changes in ownership; agreement modification; termination.
(a) Limitations.
(b) Modification; termination.
- 3837f. Administration and funding.
(a) Delegation of easement administration.
(b) Regulations.

PART II—CONSERVATION SECURITY AND FARMLAND PROTECTION

SUBPART A—CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM

3838. Definitions.
- 3838a. Conservation security program.
(a) In general.
(b) Eligibility.
(c) Conservation security plans.
(d) Conservation contracts and practices.
(e) Conservation security contracts.
(f) Noncompliance due to circumstances beyond the control of producers.
- 3838b. Duties of producers.
- 3838c. Duties of the Secretary.
(a) Timing of payments.
(b) Annual payments.
(c) Minimum practice requirement.
(d) Regulations.
(e) Transfer or change of interest in land subject to conservation security contract.
(f) Enrollment procedure.
(g) Technical assistance.

SUBPART B—FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

- 3838h. Definitions.
- 3838i. Farmland protection.
(a) In general.
(b) Conservation plan.
(c) Cost sharing.
- 3838j. Farm viability program.
(a) In general.
(b) Authorization of appropriations.

SUBPART C—GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM

- 3838n. Grassland reserve program.
(a) Establishment.
(b) Enrollment conditions.
(c) Eligible land.
- 3838o. Requirements relating to easements and agreements.
(a) Requirements of landowner.
(b) Terms of easement or rental agreement.

- Sec. (c) Evaluation and ranking of easement and rental agreement applications.
(d) Restoration agreements.
(e) Violations.
- 3838p. Duties of Secretary.
(a) In general.
(b) Payments.
(c) Federal share of restoration.
(d) Payments to others.
- 3838q. Delegation to private organizations.
(a) In general.
(b) Application.
(c) Approval by Secretary.
(d) Reversion.

PART III—ENVIRONMENTAL EASEMENT PROGRAM

3839. Environmental easement program.
(a) Establishment.
(b) Eligibility; termination.
- 3839a. Duties of owners; components of plan.
(a) Duties of owners.
(b) Components of plan.
- 3839b. Duties of Secretary.
- 3839c. Payments.
(a) Time of payment.
(b) Cost sharing payments.
(c) Easement payments; acceptability of offers.
(d) Form of payment.
(e) Payments to others.
(f) Payment limitation.
(g) Exemption from automatic sequester.
- 3839d. Changes in ownership; modification of easement.
(a) Limitations.
(b) Modification; termination.

PART IV—ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

- 3839aa. Purposes.
- 3839aa-1. Definitions.
- 3839aa-2. Establishment and administration of environmental quality incentives program.
(a) Establishment.
(b) Practices and term.
(c) Bidding down.
(d) Cost-share payments.
(e) Incentive payments.
(f) Modification or termination of contracts.
(g) Allocation of funding.
(h) Funding for federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.
- 3839aa-3. Evaluation of offers and payments.
- 3839aa-4. Duties of producers.
- 3839aa-5. Environmental quality incentives program plan.
(a) In general.
(b) Avoidance of duplication.
- 3839aa-6. Duties of the Secretary.
- 3839aa-7. Limitation on payments.
- 3839aa-8. Conservation innovation grants.
(a) In general.
(b) Use.
(c) Cost share.
- 3839aa-9. Ground and surface water conservation.
(a) Establishment.
(b) Net savings.
(c) Funding.

PART V—OTHER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

- 3839bb. Conservation of private grazing land.
(a) Purpose.
(b) Definitions.
(c) Private grazing land conservation assistance.
(d) Grazing technical assistance self-help.

Sec.

- (e) Authorization of appropriations.
- 3839bb-1. Wildlife habitat incentive program.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Cost-share payments.
 - (c) Regional equity.
- 3839bb-2. Grassroots source water protection program.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Authorization of appropriations.
- 3839bb-3. Great Lakes basin program for soil erosion and sediment control.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Assistance.
 - (c) Authorization of appropriations.

SUBCHAPTER V—FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION

- 3841. Commodity Credit Corporation.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Technical assistance.
 - (c) Relationship to other law.
 - (d) Regional equity.
- 3842. Delivery of technical assistance.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Certification of third-party providers.
- 3843. Administration of CCEP.
 - (a) Plans.
 - (b) Acreage limitation.
 - (c) Tenant protection.
 - (d) Provision of technical assistance by other sources.
 - (e) Regulations.
 - (f) Partnerships and cooperation.
- 3844. Administrative requirements for conservation programs.
 - (a) Beginning farmers and ranchers and Indian tribes.
 - (b) Privacy of personal information relating to natural resources conservation programs.

SUBCHAPTER VI—STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

- 3861. Establishment.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Standards.
 - (c) Composition.
- 3862. Responsibilities.
 - (a) In general.
 - (b) Wetland and wildlife habitat protection guidelines.
 - (c) Other duties.
 - (d) Authority.
 - (e) FACA requirements.

SUBCHAPTER I—DEFINITIONS

§ 3801. Definitions

(a) For purposes of subchapters I through V of this chapter:

(1) The term “agricultural commodity” means—

(A) any agricultural commodity planted and produced in a State by annual tilling of the soil, including tilling by one-trip planters; or

(B) sugarcane planted and produced in a State.

(2) CONSERVATION PLAN.—The term “conservation plan” means the document that—

(A) applies to highly erodible cropland;

(B) describes the conservation system applicable to the highly erodible cropland and describes the decisions of the person with respect to location, land use, tillage systems, and conservation treatment measures and schedule; and

(C) is approved by the local soil conservation district, in consultation with the local committees established under section 590h(b)(5) of this title and the Secretary, or by the Secretary.

(3) CONSERVATION SYSTEM.—The term “conservation system” means a combination of 1 or more conservation measures or management practices that—

(A) are based on local resource conditions, available conservation technology, and the standards and guidelines contained in the Natural Resources Conservation Service field office technical guides; and

(B) are designed to achieve, in a cost effective and technically practicable manner, a substantial reduction in soil erosion or a substantial improvement in soil conditions on a field or group of fields containing highly erodible cropland when compared to the level of erosion or soil conditions that existed before the application of the conservation measures and management practices.

(4) The term “conservation district” means any district or unit of State or local government formed under State or territorial law for the express purpose of developing and carrying out a local soil and water conservation program. Such district or unit of government may be referred to as a “conservation district”, “soil conservation district”, “soil and water conservation district”, “resource conservation district”, “natural resource district”, “land conservation committee”, or a similar name.

(5) The term “cost sharing payment” means a payment made by the Secretary to an owner or operator of a farm or ranch containing highly erodible cropland under the provisions of section 3834(b) of this title.

(6)(A) The term “converted wetland” means wetland that has been drained, dredged, filled, leveled, or otherwise manipulated (including any activity that results in impairing or reducing the flow, circulation, or reach of water) for the purpose or to have the effect of making the production of an agricultural commodity possible if—

(i) such production would not have been possible but for such action; and

(ii) before such action—

(I) such land was wetland; and

(II) such land was neither highly erodible land nor highly erodible cropland.

(B) Wetland shall not be considered converted wetland if production of an agricultural commodity on such land during a crop year—

(i) is possible as a result of a natural condition, such as drought; and

(ii) is not assisted by an action of the producer that destroys natural wetland characteristics.

(7) FIELD.—The term “field” means a part of a farm that is separated from the balance of the farm by permanent boundaries such as fences, roads, permanent waterways, or other similar features. At the option of the owner or operator of the farm, croplines may also be used to delineate a field if farming practices